

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0160

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A (E)

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING EASTERN
FREEZE PROPOSAL

ON MARCH 30, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED THE FOLLOWING
REPORT INFORMING THE NAC AS REGARDS PRESS GUIDELINES
AGREED TO BY THE GROUP CONCERNING THE EASTERN PROPOSAL
THAT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH
OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA FOR THE DURATION OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS.

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1. RECENTLY EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE RENEWED THEIR
PROPOSAL THAT EACH SIDE IN THE VIENNA TALKS SHOULD AGREE
TO FREEZE ITS MANPOWER FOR THE DURATION OF THE TALKS. IN
THE PLENARY SESSION OF MARCH 17, THEY SUGGESTED THAT THIS
BE DONE AT LEVELS CORRESPONDING TO THE FIGURES TABLED BY
EACH SIDE FOR ITS MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA. THE AD

HOC GROUP HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDELINES FOR ITS USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

A. BOTH SIDES IN THESE TALKS HAVE PROPOSED A NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT ON MILITARY MANPOWER. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PROPOSALS, AND IT IS AN ESSENTIAL ONE, IS BETWEEN THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SUCH A COMMITMENT WOULD BE CONCLUDED.

B. IN THE WEST'S VIEW, A NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A SATISFACTORY FIRST PHASE REDUCTION AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD NOT CONTRACTUALIZE THE EXISTING LARGE EASTERN SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA.

C. TO BE EFFECTIVE, A NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT MUST ALSO BE BASED ON FACTS -- THAT IS, ON ACTUAL FIGURES AGREED BY BOTH SIDES.

D. THIS REQUIREMENT HAS NOT BEEN MET MERELY BECAUSE BOTH EAST AND WEST HAVE TABLED FIGURES IN VIENNA ON MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA. IN FACT, THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ABOUT THE FIGURES ON WARSAW PACT FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA.

E. ANY NON-INCREASE PROPOSAL BASED ON DATA ON WHICH THERE IS DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST WOULD BE UNWORKABLE AND A CONTINUING SOURCE OF MISUNDERSTANDING AND CONTENTION BETWEEN EAST
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AND WEST.

F. IT ALSO GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE WEST WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD IMPLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MANPOWER CEILINGS FOR EACH WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANT.

G. FOR THESE REASONS, THE WEST CONSIDERS THAT THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL IS NEITHER FEASIBLE NOR ACCEPTABLE.

END TEXT. RESOR

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